

LETTERS

Clayton Feaver at SLEP

We read with pleasure your reflections on the beginnings of the new semester, the football season, and the invocations of J. Clayton Feaver at the start of each home game. Clayton was friend, colleague and mentor to many OU faculty and students during his years of service to this University. Those who knew him only as a voice resounding over the stadium on Saturday afternoon have reason to regret not knowing the man. Those of us who did know him can remember him with pleasure, and through these memories ease the regret we feel from no longer encountering his wisdom and humor.

We would like to correct one error which appeared in your account of Clayton's contributions and accomplishments while a member of the University of Oklahoma community. He was the second, not the first, director of the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program. The first director was Professor Sam Kirkpatrick of the department of political science. Sam was instrumental in helping SLEP become a reality and served as its director from 1973-77. Under his leadership OSLEP assumed its basic structure and established the high standards for scholar selection and student participation that continued under Clayton's leadership. He (Sam) left our University to head the department of political science at Texas A&M and is now president of the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Although not the first director of SLEP, Clayton's contributions to the program were still major. For one thing, when he became its director, the program was still young enough to fail. His careful nurturing was instrumental in guiding it to maturity and seeing it become one of the most respected academic programs in the country—and the only one of its kind. A key to his success was in recognizing that the program he had inherited was very well conceived and needed no substantial alterations. He resisted whatever temptation he may have had to initiate unnecessary and potentially damaging changes simply to put his

own identifying brand on the program. Instead, he concentrated on nurturing it in another way—he set out to create an environment for both scholars and students that would cause them to look back for years to come and say with all sincerity that their SLEP seminar was the best experience of their teaching and learning careers. With the assistance and commitment of his staff (Audrey Maehl, Daisy Martin and Peggy Curry), he was successful in this aim.

The Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program has received and continues to receive guidance and support from many persons in Oklahoma higher education, but its real success is easily traced to the insights and hard work of Sam and Clayton. Those of us who have followed them as director of the program have been direct beneficiaries of their wise and careful nurturing of the program during its formative years. Our job has been infinitely easier because of both their efforts, but the loss of Clayton, with his calm manner and his unproffered, but always available, counsel will be especially missed.

John H. Lancaster

Director, OSLEP 1987-1994

Professor, Dept. of Microbiology

Helen T. DeBolt

Director, OSLEP 1994-

About the Summer *Sooner*

And all I had to do was graduate, '32, and receive my M.A. '34, and receive a life membership in the Alumni Association so long ago I can't remember paying for, or how much, and I receive for 63 years—226 copies—of the best magazine I find in my mailbox.

Imagine being told by two smart OU professors of their invention that will earthquake-proof buildings and, as an extra dividend, make highway bridges last longer! How many lives and how much money will that save? That is uplifting and rejuvenating news to an old man when most of what we get in other magazines, TV and in all newspapers make it seem that the human race is about to fall on its face.

But like everything else about the

University, the *Sooner Magazine* has gotten better and better, especially with the job you have been doing with it.

But all that isn't what inspired me to write. Your "Prologues" are always excellent, but this last, in Summer '95, topped them all. It is your delightful, ruminating style at its best. I loved every thought and paragraph. It was a much-needed call to arms.

Clayton Feaver will be greatly missed, but we will think of him before every kickoff. He should have lived to 100 and would have been just as delightful to his thousands of students and friends.

Gene Kendall, '32 BA, '34 MA
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

From football to flowers might describe the beginning and end to the Summer 1995 issue of *Sooner Magazine*, which I received earlier this week. Yes, I read everything from the front cover "Prologue" to the inside of the back cover about the new Rose Sharp Rose Garden. I especially have enjoyed the series of articles in recent issues by David Levy, including the most recent one on the Loyalty Oath Crisis of 1951.

As an OU alumnus who has continued contacts with OU and Norman, I want to congratulate you and your staff on your excellent work on the *Sooner Magazine*. Every issue is of great interest to me not only because I can keep up with personalities and developments in Norman, but also because it provides me with information from the past about persons and events at OU. Your "Prologue" was right on! How I enjoyed relaxation and a few anxious moments from football, baseball and basketball while I was a graduate student between 1958 and 1960 and again from 1963 to 1964.

I also greatly enjoyed the article by Margaret French about the distinguished professorships. Since I was trained by Max L. Moorhead, who served as my major professor in Latin American history and was a David Ross Boyd professor, he gave me my life's profession as an historian and college professor with his professionalism, knowledge and dedication. He and Amy Moorhead were also great

friends, and I miss them greatly. I met Amy through my dear friend Mary Esther Saxon, whom I saw in a recent newsletter from OU had passed away. That was a shock to me.

Yes, I continue to follow OU football and hope that the new coach and enthusiasm will lead to revitalized interest in Sooner football. I have always felt as an academician and sports enthusiast that the two are interrelated and part of the overall importance of a major university. I was fortunate to receive my graduate education at the University of Oklahoma from Max, Don Berthrong, Donnell Owings, Gene Hollon and others, and to know Savoie Lottinville and many other friends on campus and in the community. Dr. Lottinville provided encouragement that led to my first book with the University of Oklahoma Press in 1966. Since then I have formed a close friendship with John Drayton at the Press, who also encouraged me to complete my second and third publications with the Press in 1979 and 1994.

As you can see, I am grateful for all that OU has given me in my life and continue to be interested in what goes on in Norman at the University. While I cannot get back to Norman as often as I would like to do, I am still able to keep up with activities and persons there through letters, occasional visits and especially your *Sooner Magazine*.

*Oakah L. Jones, '60 M.A., '64 Ph.D.
Historian and Professor Emeritus
Purdue University
Albuquerque, New Mexico*

You brought back memories with your nostalgic "Prologue" in the Summer 1995 *Sooner*. You recalled so exactly the way we felt about football concentrated on campus during the glory days.

Football was a total experience. We built our lives around it. We programmed our perms with the Saturday home games (which might be wet) and the dances (which might be dry) in mind. We took the season seriously, fun and fans.

We were there—particularly on the cold afternoon when Notre Dame broke the winning streak. I thought I

should have to get an ambulance to return Orville Priestley to Anadarko. The whole town, the whole state was struck dumb.

Editor Wallace Kidd spoke for all when he wrote, "Bud, we just can't believe it. It can't be. Nothing's going on in town. We're just standing around saying nothing on the street corners in clumps like a bunch of potato bugs that's just been sprayed."

Thanks for the memories.

*Lee Priestley, '25
Las Cruces, New Mexico*

Editor's Note: Author and former publisher of the Las Cruces Sun-News, Mrs. Priestley helped establish the Herbert-Priestley Resource Center in the H. H. Herbert School of Journalism and Mass Communication. The former Opal Lee Shore, she is the widow of Orville H. Priestley, one of the school's most distinguished graduates.

Calling '50s Coeds

I'm an OU graduate student working on a research project on "coed" experience at the University of Oklahoma in the 1950s. I am hoping your women readers who attended the University of Oklahoma during that time might be willing to share their remembrances with me.

Although much has been written about the cultural and social history of America in the 1950s, there is not much information about coed experience. I'm really interested in asking coeds in the 1950s: How did your family and community influence your college plans? What factors influenced your choice of major? Was your experience as a sorority member or independent limiting or enriching? How did you perceive the rules about hours and social behavior? How did it feel to be different in the 1950s?

I would like to hear from women who attended the University of Oklahoma any time from 1950 to 1959. Real names will not be used in any published form of this project, and the data will be kept in strict confidence. Please write to me at P.O. Box 722002, Norman, OK 73070.

*Fran Little, '68 B.S.
Norman, Oklahoma*

Arts Classic Run, Part II

TO ALL SOONER FANS:

The second annual OU Arts Classic Run will be held March 30, 1996. This highly successful event, which last year attracted nearly 1,000 participants, raised approximately \$15,000 for the University of Oklahoma College of Fine Arts.

The 1996 race again will be presented by KOCO TV-Channel 5 and Sonic Corporation. President David Boren will promote the race and related events. The 1996 edition of the OU Arts Classic Run has added a one-half marathon to the 2-mile run/walk and 10-km run, all races starting at 9 a.m. in front of Memorial Stadium and finishing on Owen Field's 50-yard line.

As last year, the entertainment for the runners and the fans will be provided by the College of Fine Arts, both along the course and in the stadium. One of the Run's sponsors, the OU Health Sciences Center, also has scheduled a repeat of its well-received Fitness Expo.

Joining Channel 5 and Sonic Corporation as major sponsors for the Run are American Airlines and Bank of Oklahoma. Additional sponsors include Merrill Lynch, Fred Jones Companies, Hyde Drug Inc., Mike Bryan Office Products, McAfee & Taft A Professional Corporation, OU Health Sciences Center, C. R. Anthony Company, Harold's, C. L. Frates & Company, Oklahoma Publishing Company, OU Athletic Department, Oral & Maxillofacial Associates and Campus Corner Merchants' Association.

Mark your calendars for March 30, 1996, for the OU Arts Classic Run. It will be a great day and a wonderful opportunity to kick off spring by participating in what is becoming the premier running event in the state of Oklahoma. Entry forms will be available at The Runner and all Sonic Drive-Ins after January 1, 1996. For additional information, call (405) 235-9621. Hope to see you at the starting line.

*Dudley Hyde, '66 B.A.
Race Director
1996 OU Arts Classic Run
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma*